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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : ATTN: BOX PCT  
 Yoshihiko MATSUKAWA et al. : Docket No. 2000-1663A  
 Serial No. 09/719,231 :  
 Filed December 8, 2000 :

IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE  
 DECODING APPARATUS, CHARACTER  
 COLLATION APPARATUS, AND DATA  
 STORAGE MEDIUM

[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/03066  
 Filed June 9, 1999]

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. .

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

- 1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**  
(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and  
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

- a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or  
b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☒ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
  - b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
  - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshihiko MATSUKAWA et al.

By



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February 22, 2001

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: February 22, 2001

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2000-1663ASERIAL NO.  
09/719,231APPLICANT  
Yoshihiko MATSUKAWA et al.FILING DATE  
December 8, 2000

GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |    | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|----|--------------------|------|------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                      | AA |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AB |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AC |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AD |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AE |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AF |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AG |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AH |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |
|                      | AI |                    |      |      |       |          |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |    | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE   | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION<br>YES NO |  |
|--|----|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|--|
|  | AJ | 3-104380           | 5/1991 | JP      |       |          | Partial               |  |
|  | AK | 10-126624          | 5/1998 | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |  |
|  | AL | 2-174370           | 7/1990 | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |  |
|  | AM | 6-113291           | 4/1994 | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |  |
|  | AN | 5-176180           | 7/1993 | JP      |       |          | Partial               |  |
|  | AO | 10-98732           | 4/1998 | JP      |       |          | Abstract              |  |

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
|  | AP |  |
|  | AQ |  |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.